

2021-22 CoC Action Plan for the TX BoS CoC -- Progress Report

Quarter 3: 7/1/2022-9/30/2022

Goal 1: Improve the Current Housing Crisis Response System	
Strategy 1: Integrate public and community-based services linked to outreach, engagement, shelter, and housing	
Measure 1. System Performance Measure 1: Length of Time Homeless	Not using SPMs as measures in Year 1
Measure 2. System Performance Measure 3: Number of Homeless Persons	Not using SPMs as measures in Year 1
Measure 3. Number of agencies participating in Coordinated Entry	Baseline: 82 agencies currently participating in CE
Measure 4. Updated assessment standards and process in Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures	Baseline: THN is in the process of evaluating the entire Coordinated Entry process/ system at this time. Any updates are on hold until the Systems Change team has had time to understand the strengths within the current processes as well as the opportunities for change.
Measure 5. Increased use of existing processes and procedures available to communities, like the Domestic Violence (DV) workaround	Baseline: THN is in the process of evaluating the entire Coordinated Entry process/ system at this time. Any updates or increased participation initiatives are on hold until the Systems Change team has had time to understand the strengths within the current processes as well as the opportunities for change.
Activity 1.1a. Fully implement CE throughout the CoC	Hired Systems Change Coordinator. Continuing projects as discussed in Q1 report related to evaluating all CE regions. Project with TIEMH and evaluating rural CE is on hold due to lack of capacity. CE Evaluation is in progress and will hopefully result in actionable steps for expanding CE.
Activity 1.1b. Standardize assessment and prioritization	In the recruitment stage for vacant Coordinated Entry Steering Committee (CESC) positions. Began meeting with Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) to discuss prioritization and assessment issues for survivors, specifically. CE Evaluation is in progress and will hopefully result in actionable steps for standardizing assessment and prioritization across geography.

Strategy 2: Improve communication and cooperation between communities in the same region to improve service delivery	
Measure 1. System Performance Measure 1: Length of Time Homeless	Not using SPMs as measures in Year 1
Measure 2. System Performance Measure 3: Number of Homeless Persons	Not using SPMs as measures in Year 1
Measure 3. Number of agencies participating in Coordinated Entry	Baseline: 82 agencies currently participating in CE
Measure 4. Completed regionalization pilot project	Baseline: Regionalization project does not exist yet
Activity 1.2a. Explore regional planning and decentralized governance	Reaching out to work with HUD technical assistance (TA) provider, ICF, to design how the Supportive Services Only--Coordinated Entry (SSO-CE) project could be used to regionalize CE May also regionalize the implementation of Supplemental NOFO-funded projects to address unsheltered and rural homelessness and the "CoC Plan to Serve People Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs"
Strategy 3: Increase capacity of local providers and communities	
Measure 1. System Performance Measure 1: Length of Time Homeless	Not using SPMs as measures in Year 1
Measure 2. System Performance Measure 2: Returns to Homelessness	Not using SPMs as measures in Year 1
Measure 3. Identified current gaps in discharge planning	Baseline: This measure doesn't apply to Activity 1.3a. It applied to a different activity that staff did not select to be implemented in Year 1.
Measure 4. Formal incorporation of homeless prevention into the Coordinated Entry system	Baseline: There is an HP tool created and integrated into the workflow in HMIS, but only Endeavors and the Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) in Hidalgo County have access to it currently.
Activity 1.3a. Promote the use of homeless prevention and diversion strategies to assist people experiencing	On hold. We are not rolling out Diversion at this time, but the Data Team has created an updated HMIS Diversion training this quarter as a part of our system upgrade to ClientTrack 20, which involves updating all our training materials in preparation for the brand new ClientTrack user interface.
Strategy 4: Strengthen practices of local providers and communities	
Measure 1. System Performance Measure 1: Length of Time Homeless	Not using SPMs as measures in Year 1
Measure 2. Update to the CoC Written Standards for Service Delivery	Baseline: Update scheduled to begin in Quarter 3 and finalized in Quarter 4.
Measure 3. Finalized Program Standards for Emergency Shelter	Baseline: to be incorporated in Written Standards with 2022 revision (Quarter 3)

Measure 4. Number of trainings offered by the CoC to providers	Baseline: All required trainings (3) have been identified; 0 have been offered in Quarter 1.
Measure 5. Completed development of a case management training series	Baseline: CM Training series outline exists
Activity 1.4b. Establish high "minimum standards" for emergency shelter	Consulted with all emergency shelter applicants for State ESG funds, ensuring minimal arbitrary requirements
Activity 1.4c. Promote the use of evidence-based practices such as Housing First, trauma-informed care, and harm reduction	The Supplemental NOFO and the CoC Plan are designed to promote Housing First, client-centered service planning, and Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Strategies (CLAS)
Goal 2: INCREASE SUPPLY OF, AVAILABILITY OF, AND ACCESS TO HOUSING AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES	
Strategy 1: Increase affordable housing options	
Measure 1. System Performance Measure 2: Returns to Homelessness	Not using SPMs as measures in Year 1
Measure 2. System Performance Measure 5: First Time Homeless	Not using SPMs as measures in Year 1
Measure 3. System Performance Measure 7: Successful Placement to Permanent Housing	Not using SPMs as measures in Year 1
Measure 4. Increased housing stock in all Community Investment Committee (CIC) regions	Baseline: Not yet established
Measure 5. Community Investment Committee (CIC) actively participates in funding allocations	Baseline: CIC participates in all funding allocations, as directed by the CoC Board
Activity 2.1a. Assess the distribution of housing units and beds by component type, and work to have the supply meet the demand	General push for new rapid re-housing (RRH) projects and leveraged beds from Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) through the Supplemental NOFO
Strategy 5: Ensure the availability of housing for special populations of people experiencing homelessness (youth, veterans, families, chronically homeless persons)	
Measure 1. System Performance Measure 7: Successful Placement to Permanent Housing	Not using SPMs as measures in Year 1
Measure 2. Identify top five communities where homelessness has a disparate impact on black and African American persons	Baseline: Data team is still working on this! We have not yet identified the top 5 communities.
Measure 3. Advisory group of persons with lived experience is established and operating	Baseline: Advisory group does not exist yet

Measure 4. Materials for engaging people currently experiencing homelessness are developed	Baseline: Materials are not developed yet
Activity 2.5a. Establish a workgroup within the TX BoS CoC to look at disparate impact of homelessness on Black or African American persons	Data team is working to identify the top 5 communities. We have a plan to use Census data and compare that to HMIS data. Capacity has not allowed for us to find these 5 communities yet, but we are meeting monthly to determine this. Our team has also begun looking at VISPDAT data of HMIS clients enrolled in CE and we have begun identifying communities where clients of certain racial demographics score higher or lower than the average for that community. Engagement Team has begun talking with CoC members who are interested in developing a Racial Equity Committee in the CoC.
Activity 2.5b. Develop a plan to end Youth Homelessness and create a Youth Action Board (YAB) comprised of youth with lived experience of homelessness	Vacant Staff positions @ CoC Lead Agency, so no one to work with this committee in this quarter
Activity 2.5c. Develop a plan to end Veteran Homelessness	Vacant Staff positions @ CoC Lead Agency, so no one to work with this committee in this quarter
Goal 3: MORE EFFECTIVELY USE DATA TO INFORM DECISION-MAKING, MEASURE PROGRESS, AND SET GOALS FOR SUCCESS	
Strategy 1: Continuously improve homelessness data management	
Measure 1. Improved Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Data Quality metrics	Baseline: The data team is in the process of creating a data Quality improvement plan. Anticipating implementation date in the future
Measure 2. Improved performance on System Performance Measures (SPMs) identified by the Data Committee	Baseline: Data Committee has begun studying SPMs, and the staff support will continue to ask for input from the Committee on SPMs and how we can improve our performance
Activity 3.1c. Conduct quarterly data quality checks and provide communities with more one-on-one and peer learning opportunities to enhance their data entry practices.	Staff successfully rolled out Phase 1 of the new Data Quality Plan. Staff have begun checking in with agencies quarterly or monthly, depending on the data element. The current Phase 1 plan began on July 15, and our HMIS admins had until August 15 to complete all data corrections. The Data Team is close to rolling out Phase 2, which will include more comprehensive data elements than Phase 1. We will continue to check in with agencies on the Phase 1 and Phase 2 data elements monthly or quarterly, depending on the element.

Strategy 2: Increase HMIS participation in order to better understand the housing crisis response system	
Corresponding Data Measurement 1. Increased participation rate (i.e., the number of organizations using HMIS)	Baseline: 131 agencies participating as of 4/19/22
Corresponding Data Measurement 2. Number of Local Homeless Coalition (LHC) meetings attended by the Data Team	Baseline: 0
Activity 3.2a. Educate providers on the benefits of using HMIS and conduct targeted outreach of non-participating organizations	The Data Team has done some targeted outreach to providers in the TX BoS CoC on the benefits of using HMIS by attending Coordinated Entry Planning Entity (CEPE) meetings and hosting one-on-one calls with potentially interested community members.
Goal 4: INCREASE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, IMPROVE PUBLIC PERCEPTION, AND SHAPE PUBLIC POLICY	
Strategy 3. Increase community awareness and participation and community engagement around ending homelessness through coalition building, advocacy, volunteerism, and engagement	
Measure 1. Number of people new to homeless services who were introduced to homeless services using materials and the process that THN developed	Baseline: Materials and process do not exist yet
Measure 2. Increase in knowledge among persons new to homeless services, as evidenced by pre- and post-test training test scores	Baseline: Intro meetings have not been held yet
Measure 3. Increase in the number of people who were introduced to homeless services that subsequently began participating in their Local Homeless Coalition (LHC)	Baseline: Intro meeting have not been held yet
Measure 4. Increased awareness of racial disparities, as evidenced by pre- and post-training test scores	Baseline: Trainings have not been held yet
Measure 5. Positive changes in the racial demographics reported in the homeless population report	Baseline: Data Team is in the process of identifying racial demographics/disparities within the HMIS system.
Measure 6. Increase in the number of programs participating in the Point in Time (PIT) Count	Baseline: # of Regions in 2022: 42 # of Counties in 2022: 55 #of Sheltered projects in 2022: 138

<p>Activity 4.3a. Create content and process to introduce educational materials to people new to homeless services</p>	<p>Engagement Team analyzed attendance at CoC meetings by people representing various groups, as asked about in the FY 2022 CoC Application. Team identified areas for improvement: individuals living with disabilities, organizations led by and serving people with disabilities, disability advocates, LGBTQ+ individuals, organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ folks, LGBTQ+ advocates, local jail staff, Indian tribes, Texas Assn. Against Sexual Assault (TAASA), substance abuse advocates, persons with lived experience (PWLE) of homelessness within the past year, persons currently experiencing homelessness (PEH), and persons with lived experience of unsheltered homelessness. We also need to engage more Black/African American people and more Hispanic/Latin(o)(a)(x) people.</p>
<p>Activity 4.3b. Promote awareness of racial disparities in housing access, and help communities address inequality</p>	<p>Data Team has conducted a data analysis project to find racial disparities in HMIS data and will meet with the Engagement Team to help us promote awareness. The project included looking at how people of different races score on the VI-SPDAT from community to community. We have presented our findings to the Data Committee to prep them for future endeavors to move away from the VI-SPDAT in search of a more equitable tool.</p>
<p>Activity 4.3c. Develop CoC-wide or region-wide plan/outreach around data collection events [for example the Point-in-Time (PIT) Count and the Housing Inventory Count (HIC)]</p>	<p>PIT Count planning began in August and is currently in the PIT region recruitment stage. Data Coordinator is updating training and planning materials that can be used at both the CoC level and the community level to ensure consistency with count methodology. Discussions will begin before the end of the year to determine how to improve communication about the PIT and HIC among all the BoS teams.</p>
<p>Strategy 4. Increase involvement of persons with lived experience</p>	
<p>Measure 1. The advisory group of persons with lived experience is developed and operating.</p>	<p>Baseline: The advisory group does not exist yet</p>
<p>Measure 2. Persons with lived experience will guide the revision of the CoC Action Plan by 9/30/2022</p>	<p>Baseline: The advisory group does not exist yet</p>
<p>Measure 3. More persons with current or recent lived experience will participate in the CoC Board and on CoC Committees</p>	<p>Baseline: 5 CoC Board members; unknown number of CoC Committee members</p>

Activity 4.4a. Develop a workgroup of people with current and recent (within the past 3 years) lived experience of homelessness that will consult with THN staff and CoC stakeholders on CoC activities	The workgroup was developed and started meeting in August with seven founding members. Members signed a letter of support for priorities in the "CoC Plan to Serve People Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs." They also identified goals for the group. The CoC Board made the group an official CoC Committee, with authority to request action from the board, such as voting on policies proposed by the committee.
Goal 5: INCREASE FUNDING TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS	
Strategy 1: Align funding and other resources to complement the strategic framework	
Measure 1. System Performance Measure 1: Length of Time Homeless	Not using SPMs as measures in Year 1
Measure 2. System Performance Measure 2: Returns to Homelessness	Not using SPMs as measures in Year 1
Measure 3. Increase to the CoC's Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) dollar amount	FY 2021 ARD = \$9,220,238
Measure 4. All new projects are based on documented need in a given region	Baseline: Need is not always reflected in applications received or funding decisions
Measure 5. Existence of a publicly available funding alignment plan	Baseline: No such funding alignment plan exists
Activity 5.1a. Develop funding alignment plan, incorporating Program Models Chart, to align CoC funding with approved models and needs	No progress this quarter due to Annual CoC Program competition/application process and Supplemental NOFO competition/application process.
Strategy 4. Provide technical assistance and promote capacity building to agencies regarding applying for Continuum of Care (CoC) Program and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program funding	
Measure 1. Increase in the number of new communities in the TX BoS CoC's application for CoC Program funds	Baseline: Analysis of current CoC funding by region scheduled to take place in Quarter 2, to identify communities targeted for outreach.
Measure 2. Increase to the CoC's Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) dollar amount	FY 2021 ARD = \$9,220,238
Activity 5.4a. Increase outreach to communities that do not currently receive CoC Program funding to identify any barriers that may keep them from applying	Intentional outreach to rural communities and communities that do not currently receive CoC Program funds through the Supplemental NOFO competition/application process and outreach to victim services providers (VSPs) through the annual CoC Program competition/application process.